



July 15, 2013

Dear School Administrators and School Nurses,

In the last legislative session, several changes were made to IC 20-34-3-12 and IC 20-34-3-13 which deal with vision tests, records, reports and waivers. A summary of these changes, which begin July 1, 2013, are listed below.

1.) Vision screening is required for students enrolled or transferring into grades:

- Kindergarten or 1st Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 5th Grade*
- 8th Grade
- Any student suspected of having a visual defect

(*Note – the addition of screening all 5th grade students is a new requirement)

2.) Vision screening should be done to test visual acuity at near (14 inches) and far (10 to 20 feet depending on the chart used) distances

3.) Vision screening can be done using the Snellen chart, the Sloan letters, HOTV or LEA symbol optotypes

4.) Refer for further examination those students who are unable to read with each eye the 20/30 line of the Snellen chart or the 20/32 line of the Sloan letters, HOTV, or LEA symbol optotypes

5.) MCT (Modified Clinical Technique) vision screening must be conducted by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist for students in kindergarten or 1st grade

6.) If a school is unable to comply with completing the MCT vision screening requirement, the school may request a waiver from the IDOE by submitting a [MCT Waiver Form](#) by November 1, 2013

7.) Each individual school will need to submit a waiver request as waivers will not be granted at the corporation level

8.) SEA 553 applies to all public schools, all charter schools, and all accredited private schools

Please Note - Due to the new legislation, schools were not required to report vision or hearing results for the 2012-2013 school year. A new School Health Report will be available by March 2014 for schools to report their vision, hearing and health data for the 2013-2014 school year.

To view the complete law – please click on the following link:

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2013/SE/SE0553.1.html>

Indiana Department of Education

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